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### University of Montana will institute general education requirements

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA WILL INSTITUTE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

MISSOULA--

With one dissenting vote, the University of Montana Faculty Senate Thursday adopted a general education program designed to ensure that every UM graduate will have a liberal education as well as specialized career training.

The new general education requirements will take effect in the autumn of 1984 for incoming freshmen and the following autumn for transfer students.

Speaking for the university administration, Academic Vice President Donald Habbe said, "We applaud the action of the Faculty Senate. This represents a significant step forward in improving the quality of undergraduate education for all students who come to the University of Montana."

The program will require all students to achieve a prescribed level of competency in writing, mathematics, and foreign language/symbolic systems. Entering freshmen with a good high school background will be exempt from some competency requirements.

Students will also take courses in each of six "perspectives" that will acquaint them with the different ways the world is viewed by a variety of disciplines. The perspectives are: Expressive Arts, Literary and Artistic Studies, Historical and Cultural Studies, Social Sciences, Ethical and Human Values, Natural Sciences.

The program was drafted by a committee made up of three faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, three faculty from the professional schools, and three students. The senate approved their proposal in principle a year ago and on May 31 passed a version that emerged from a year of campuswide consultation.

(over)



general education requirements--add one

According to the committee, the minimum goals of a liberal education, which the new program is designed to meet, include "the ability to think critically, to communicate effectively, to become aware of the vast extent and variety of our accumulated experience and knowledge, and to master at least one subject well enough to appreciate its subtlety and complexity."

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